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Agenda item 20 (b)

STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES OR REGIONS

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Gabon, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Israel, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela: draft resolution

International assistance to and cooperation with the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the resolutions in which it emphasizes and acknowledges the importance of international, bilateral and multilateral economic, financial and technical support, cooperation and assistance for peacekeeping and post-conflict peace-building in Central America, in particular its resolutions 50/58 B of 12 December 1995 and 50/132 of 20 December 1995, which provide a frame of reference for international assistance to and cooperation with the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America, in support of national efforts to make the region a zone of peace, freedom, democracy and development,

Considering the relevant resolutions on assistance for mine clearance and the need to eliminate all mines and other unexploded devices in Central America with a view to restoring normal conditions for comprehensive development throughout the region,

Reaffirming that advances in consolidating democracy, sustainable development, justice and social equity, taking into account the gender

perspective and regional integration, are mutually reinforcing dynamic objectives which are indispensable to a firm and lasting peace in Central America,

Stressing the importance of the new programme for the sustainable development of Central America and the setting of national and regional priorities in the political, economic, social, cultural and environmental spheres and in the areas of public security and regional integration,

Stressing also the importance and effectiveness of the commitments undertaken by the Central American Presidents at various regional summit meetings, in particular those which constitute the global framework for promoting and consolidating peace, democracy and sustainable development in Central America,

Reaffirming the need to continue focusing attention on the situation in Central America in support of regional efforts to overcome the underlying causes of the conflicts and to continue strengthening the process aimed at consolidating a firm and lasting peace in the region,

Recognizing the valuable and effective contribution made by the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, the donor community and the Regional Consultative Group for Central America of the Inter-American Development Bank, and the importance of the political dialogue and cooperation taking place between the European Union and Central America and the joint initiative of the industrialized countries of the Group of Twenty-four and the Group of Three (Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela) in the progress made towards consolidating peace, democracy and sustainable development in Central America, and in the implementation of the new regional development programme,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on international assistance to and cooperation with the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America,[1] which describes the activities implemented since January 1995 in support of efforts by Central American countries to implement the new sustainable development programme in the region;

2. Emphasizes the importance of supporting and strengthening the new programme for international economic, financial and technical cooperation and assistance for Central America geared to the new circumstances in the region and based on the priorities laid down in the new sustainable development programme for the region;

3. Notes with satisfaction the efforts and achievements relating to mine clearance in Central America, and appeals to the organs of the United Nations system and to the international community, and in particular to the Secretary-General, to continue providing the material, technical and financial support needed by the Central American Governments to complete mine-clearance activities in the region, including those activities among the priorities of the new programme of international assistance to and cooperation with Central America;

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[1] A/52/297.

4. Stresses the importance of international economic, financial and technical cooperation and assistance, both bilateral and multilateral, in supporting the efforts of the Central American Governments to implement the new programme for the sustainable development of Central America;

5. Welcomes the establishment in 1996 of the new subregional cooperation programme in Central America of the United Nations Development Programme focusing on peace and democratic governance, strengthening of the rule of law, economic and social development and the environment and sustainable development, and recognizes the importance of the support provided by the Global Environment Facility for the implementation of the commitments undertaken by the Central American countries in international conventions on the environment;

6. Notes with satisfaction the signing by the Central American Governments of regional conventions on biodiversity, climate change, natural and man-made forests and on the prohibition of imports of toxic substances and waste, and calls upon the international community to continue supporting the Central American Governments in their efforts to continue complying with the commitments they have undertaken in those conventions;

7. Again stresses the need for the international community to maintain its cooperation with the Central American countries and to provide them with the necessary financial resources, in a sustained manner and on soft terms, with a view to promoting effectively the economic growth and development of the region;

8. Supports the decision of the Central American Governments to concentrate their efforts on the implementation of updated programmes with strategies for sustainable human development in previously determined priority areas, which help to consolidate peace and remedy social inequalities, extreme poverty and the social explosion;

9. Requests the Secretary-General, the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and regional and subregional organizations to continue providing the support needed to attain the objectives of the new programme for the sustainable development of Central America;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution;

11. Decides to consider at its fifty-third session the question of international assistance to and cooperation with the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America.